

## NEW RECORDS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS IN THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM COLLECTION.

By Dr. J. W. B. GUNNING (Director) and AUSTIN ROBERTS.

THE Transvaal Museum collection of bird-skins now numbers over ten thousand, and, as a result of reclassifying them, an interesting light is thrown on the distribution of many species; the whole collection will be detailed at a later date, but in the meantime we will mention the occurrence of several European migrants and purely African species not previously recorded from south of 15°, and describe a number of new species and subspecies.

### NEW RECORDS OF EUROPEAN MIGRANTS.

*Platalca leucorodia* L., juv.; *ex* coll. Austin Roberts, Wakkerstroom, Transvaal, 27.IX.09.

*Circæus gallicus* (Gm.), ♂; *ex* coll. Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, Pretoria, 2.VIII.08.

*Sylvia nisoria* (Bechst.), sex (?); *ex* coll. Austin Roberts, Venterskroon, Potchefstroom District, 18.II.09. The identity of the specimen has been kindly confirmed by Prof. Dr. Reichenow. Another specimen of this species has also recently been sent to us for identification, indicating by the label that it was collected on the Bulawayo Commonage, 29.I.11. Both specimens are in juvenile plumage.

### AFRICAN SPECIES NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

*Circæus cinereus* Vieill.

(1) ♂; *ex* coll. late J. v. O. Marais, Doornfontein, Zoutpansberg District, Transvaal, 23.II.03.

(2) Sex (?); *ex* coll. Col. Damant, C.B., D.S.O., Lydenburg, 4.III.07.

(3) Sex (?); *ex* coll. C. B. Horsbrugh, Pretoria (no date).

*Chlorophoneus abboti* Richm., a pair; *ex* coll. F. Vaughan-Kirby, Woodbush, N. Transvaal, January, 1908.

*Ploceus aureo flavus* A. Sm., adult and juvenile, ♂; collected by Kirby and Roberts, Boror, P. E. Africa, August, 1908.

### NEW SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES.

*Vinago orientalis*, spec. nov.

Very similar to *V. wakefieldi* in having the head, neck, and under-surface, particularly the breast, yellowish green, but considerably larger, and having the band on the hindneck broader.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 4757; coll. Kirby and Roberts, Villa Pereira, Boror, P.E. Africa, 7.VI.08.

(Iris, creamy white; bill, horn-blue; cere, crimson-scarlet; legs, crimson-scarlet; claws, horn-colour. Length, 290 mm.—K. & R.) Wing, 170; tail, 99; tars., 25; culm., 14; tip of outer tail-feather, 30 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 4756; same coll. and loc., 6.X.08. Differs from the male in not being so brightly suffused with yellowish, and its smaller size—length, (?); wing, 163; tail, 93; tars., 24; culm., 13 mm.

There are also in the collection five ♂♂ and two ♀♀ from Boror, Beira, and Hector Spruit, which give the following measurements:—

Wing ...	167–174 mm.	Tail ...	94–102 mm.
” ...	163–165 ”	” ...	92–97 ”

*Pternistes castaneiventer*, spec. nov.

Closely allied to *P. nudicollis*, from which it differs in having the breast chestnut coloured in general effect as compared with black, each feather having the outer portion chestnut.

This species has in the past been regarded as representing the juvenile plumage of *P. nudicollis*, but there are in the collection four adult ♂ skins in which the spurs are fully developed, two on each leg, and it must therefore be regarded as distinct. The distribution of these two species seems to be bounded by the Sundays River Valley, *P. nudicollis* occurring to the south and this new species to the north of that river only.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 4998; ex coll. J. R. Ivy, Fort Beaufort District, 28.VIII.08. Wing, 200; tail, 105; tars., 55; culm., 24 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 4010; ex coll. J. G. Brown, Zuurburg, July, 1910. Wing, 190; tail, 90; tars., 50; culm., 20.5 mm.

*Falco horsbrughi*, spec. nov.

Closely allied to *F. ruficollis*, but larger, lacking the bars on the breast and having the crown streaked.

Crown in general effect chestnut with dark brown streaks, each feather having the base and shaft dark brown and the protruding portion chestnut; forehead and a patch on the ear-coverts yellowish white, the former merging into the colour of the crown; eyebrow and a broad patch extending below the eye through the cheeks black, the former, continuing backwards to the nape, extends down the hindneck and forms two more patches, one through the hinder ear-coverts and the other midway between the ear-coverts and hindneck; collar buffish below and between the black marks. Lower hindneck dark brown, merging below into the general grey and banded dark brown appearance of the lower back; middle and greater wing-coverts, inner secondaries, scapulars, and back grey banded with dark brown; upper tail-coverts like the back, but paler and whiter on the sides; tail also grey and banded, the last band very broad and the tip white. Feathers of the top of head, neck, upper back, and wing-coverts all more or less tipped with chestnut. Chin and throat white, washed with yellowish, merging into buff on the breast and vinous on the sides and flanks; under tail-coverts buffish white with short shaft marks and faint irregular cross-bands of black; sides of lower breast and flanks banded with brown, the former not so distinct and on a darker ground than the latter; thighs also cross-banded. Upper surface of primaries dark brown, tips of all and outer margin of the first dull white, inner webs banded with white, the first two inclining to rufous near the shafts; secondaries like the back, but whiter on the inner webs in all but the innermost, which are darker than the rest: primary coverts not so distinctly banded as the primaries; bastard wing like the primaries, but broadly margined on the outer webs with vinous buff; lesser wing-coverts black, margined with vinous buff. Primaries and secondaries paler on the under-surface; projecting under wing-coverts similar but

banded across both webs; inner under wing-coverts more or less vinous and banded; edge of wing buff. Wing, 227; tail, 146; tarsi., 39; culm., 13·5 mm.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8454; *ex coll.* C. B. Horsbrugh, Pretoria, 24.X.04.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 8455; same coll. and loc., 24.X.04.

The female is larger, more distinctly banded on under tail-coverts and less distinctly on the central tail-feathers. Wing, 240; tail, 160; tarsi., 41; culm., 15·5 mm.

These two specimens were shot by Mr. Horsbrugh near a nest, discovered by us a few minutes later, in which were three newly hatched young and an egg; an attempt was made to rear the former in the Zoological Gardens without success, and the latter was preserved and subsequently described by Mr. J. A. Bucknill in the *Journal of the South African Ornithologist's Union* under the name of *Falco ruficollis*, which the birds were then thought to be. The nest was brought to the Museum and mounted by Mr. Horsbrugh.

*Pisorhina capensis* (A. Smith).

In the collection is a series of fifteen skins of this species, representing four distinct races, which we propose to place as follows:—

*Pisorhina capensis capensis*.

Two adults from Grahamstown, one juvenile from Matatiele.

In general effect dark brown, strongly washed with rufous above, the tail in particular; tarsi rufous. Wing, 134–138; tail, 61 mm.

*Pisorhina capensis intermedia*, subsp. nov.

Nine adults and one juvenile from Transvaal (Modderfontein, Hector Spruit, Pretoria, Waterberg, and Middelburg Districts).

Differs from *P. c. capensis* in being much greyer in general effect, and not so strongly washed with rufous; streaks on the under-surface broader; no rufous on tail; tarsi white. Wing, 132–143; tail, 63–68 mm.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 1391; *ex coll.* F. O. Noomé, Pretoria, 8.VI.08. Of ♀ T.M. No. 8125; *ex coll.* F. Streeter, Hector Spruit, E. Transvaal, 5.V.11.

*Pisorhina capensis grisea*, subsp. nov.

One adult from Bethulie, O.F.S.

Very similar to *P. c. intermedia*, but darker grey with hardly a trace of rufous; tail and tarsi grey.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 1392; *ex coll.* R. Chambers, Bethulie, O.F.S., 23.VI.08. Wing, 143; tail, 65 mm.

*Pisorhina capensis pusilla*, subsp. nov.

Two adults, ♂♂, from Boror, Portuguese East Africa.

Quite distinct from the three foregoing in being whiter on the abdominal region, which is also not so profusely speckled and streaked; general effect grey suffused with fiery yellowish to chestnut; tail grey, washed with rufous; tarsi yellowish white. Wing, 127–129; tail, 56 mm.

Type T.M. No. 5218; *ex coll.* Kirby and Roberts, Namabieda, Boror, P.E. Africa, 31.IX.08.

*Glaucidium capense rufum*, subsp. nov.

This species differs mainly from *G. capense* in having from ten to twelve bars on the tail-feathers and not fourteen.

All feathers of top of head and hindneck brown, with an indication of chestnut on the forehead with two white bars, increasing to three or

four on the nape and hindneck, with the base more rufous than white; back and inner scapulars of the same ground colour as the crown, but much suffused with rufous yellow, on the lower back yellowish white; upper outermost scapulars white for the greater part, next white on the outer margin, rufous and dark brown on the inner, and tipped with dark brown; towards the tail the white spreads across both webs, and the dark brown tip extends round the margin until quite encircling the white in some feathers. Rump and upper tail-coverts somewhat more rufous-shaded than the back. Central tail-feathers with eleven or twelve bars, outer ten or eleven, the greater figures referring to the paler colour. Primaries and secondaries dark brown, barred with rufous, becoming white towards the base of the inner webs and increasing towards the innermost secondaries, which are white for the greater part; secondaries white on the outer web also, forming spots. Primary coverts, greater wing-coverts, and bastard wing less distinctly barred than the primaries; middle wing-coverts brown, with a rufous spot on the inner web, for the greater part of the outer web white, forming a bar across the wing; bend of the wing and lesser wing-coverts like the back, but not so distinctly banded. Eyebrow, cheeks, and lores white, the last with protruding black bristles; chin and patch on centre of crop white; throat rufous brown; ear-coverts brown, variegated with white; breast white in the middle, banded on the sides and upper part with yellowish, red-brown, and white; remaining under-surface of body white tinged with buff, and thickly marked with triangular-shaped bars, red-brown on the lower portion and darker on the upper. Legs rufous in front, more or less banded, and uniform white behind. Under tail-coverts uniform, white tinged with buff. Under wing-coverts white or yellowish, more or less marked with dark and red-brown, axillaries pale sulphur yellow and not banded; edge of wing white.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 4741; *ex* coll. Kirby and Roberts, Boror, P.E. Africa, 13.VIII.08. (Iris, sulphur yellow; bill, yellowish green, tip paler; feet, greenish yellow. Length, 206 mm.—K. & R.) Wing, 144; tail, 87; culm., 13 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 4744; same coll. and loc., 24.VII.08. Length, 215; wing, 137; tail, 80; culm., 13 mm.

In the collection there are also three more specimens from the same locality which are identical in colour with the types, and measure: length, 208–215; wing, 135–142; tail, 80–86; culm., 11–13 mm.

*Dendromus albifacies*, spec. nov.

Very similar to *Dendromus scriptoricauda* Reichenow, but differing in having a white eyebrow extending from the upper edges of the ear-coverts to the forepart of the eye, where it is separated from the white lores by a few dark brown feathers with white tips; the side of the face between the eye and red malar streak, as also the lores, pure white; rump and sides of upper tail-coverts distinctly paler than the back and middle upper tail-coverts, and forming a band across the former.

♂. Forehead, crown, and nape crimson; hindneck dark brown banded with whitish; remaining upper surface like the hindneck, but suffused with bright olive yellow on the upper back, middle upper tail-coverts, and external margins of wing feathers; tail dark yellowish indistinctly banded with dark brown, the shafts yellow and darker towards the tips. Feathers and bristles overlapping the nostrils yellowish; lores white, extending in a broad patch below the eye to the base of the ear-coverts white; small patches before and behind the eye dark brown,

spotted with white; a broad white eyebrow, extending from the dark brown patch before the eye above the ear-coverts to the sides of the neck; ear-coverts more or less varied with white and brown; malar streak like the top of the head, whitish at the point projecting over the maxilla; chin white streaked with black; throat yellowish white, with a single row of round black spots between the malar streaks, but becoming more numerous on the lower part; breast more yellowish and the spots larger, the latter becoming fewer on the lower breast and flanks, and on the latter more in the form of bands; abdomen immaculate and under tail-coverts only slightly spotted; thighs varied with dark grey and brown. First and second primaries dark brown with two white marks at the base of the outer web; remaining primaries olive yellowish for the basal half of the outer web, banded more or less with pale yellowish, and with whitish tips in all but the third, the inner webs in all brown and the shafts yellow; secondaries like the primaries, but the shafts darker, the outer webs olive yellowish for a greater extent and the innermost banded across both webs and the bands more whitish; wing-coverts like the innermost secondaries for the greater part. Under wing-coverts yellowish white, more or less spotted with dark brown.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 4717; *ex* coll. Kirby and Roberts, Villa Pereira, Boror, P.E. Africa, 15.VI.08. (Iris, scarlet; bill, dark brown, gonys pale yellow; legs and feet, olive green. Length, 216 mm.—K. & R.) Wing, 117; tail, 68; tars., 24; culm., 25 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 4718; same collection and locality (mate of foregoing). Length, 202; wing, 115; tail, 65; tars., 22; culm., 23 mm.

This differs from the ♂ in having the forehead and crown black with a roundish white or yellowish spot near the tip of each feather, the malar streak black, with the margins and tips of the feathers white, and more spots on the upper throat.

Also another ♀ from the same locality which measures: length, 203; wing, 113; tail, 71; tars., 22; culm., 23 mm.

*Irrisor erythrorhynchus brevirostris*, subsp. nov. †

Closely resembles *I. erythrorhynchus viridis*, from which it is distinguished by its stouter and straighter bill, the crown and throat not so clearly glossed with blue, the back, scapulars, crop, and breast more glossed with bronze, and the primary coverts broadly tipped with white; tail also more bronze coloured.

Head metallic green, blue in some lights, the base of the metallic portion of each feather with a bronzy sheen; back and sides of neck, upper back, crop, and breast green, glossed with bronze, more pronounced on the scapulars; lower back and rump dark brown, faintly glossed with bronze violet; upper tail-coverts and tail bronze violet. Edge of wing, lesser and median wing-coverts violet; greater wing-coverts dull blue; primary coverts dull greenish, with broad white tips; primaries and secondaries greenish, glossed in parts with violet, especially on the innermost secondaries, and crossed by a white bar on the inner web of the first three and on both webs of the remainder. Throat greenish metallic blue. Abdominal region dark brown, glossed with blue, brightest on the thighs. Two outermost pairs of tail-feathers crossed by a white mark on each web, on the outer web farther from the tip than the inner; next pair with a white mark on the outer web only; rest of the tail-feathers uniform.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 4653; *ex* coll. Kirby and Roberts, Villa Pereira, Boror, P. E. Africa, 1.VI.08. (Iris, dusky; bill and legs, red; claws,

black. Length, 378 mm.—K. & R.) Wing, 142; tail, 200; tars., 23; culm., 44 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 4653, *ex* coll. Kirby and Roberts, Villa Pereira, 13.VI.08. Length, 353; wing, 127; tail, 192; tars., 23; culm., 38 mm.

*Alsonax caerulescens pondoensis*, subsp. nov.

This subspecies differs from the typical *A. caerulescens* in being much darker grey, the throat in particular grey and not white.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 7288; *ex* coll. H. H. Swinny, Port St. Johns, Pondoland, 21.VII.09. (Iris, brownish hazel; bill, blue-black, lighter below; legs and feet, dark brown. Length, 145 mm.—H. H. S.) Wing, 75; tail, 75; tars., 16; culm., 12 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 7289; same collection and locality, 16.VII.09. Length, 142; wing, 70; tail, 58; tars., 16; culm., 12 mm.

There are also three more specimens in the Transvaal Museum from the same locality which are identical with the types.

*Certhilanda daviesi*, spec. nov.

This species is intermediate between *C. semitorquata* and *C. capensis*, differing from the former in being darker, more profusely streaked on the crop, and slightly larger, the beak stouter and the hindclaw exceeding 10 mm. in length; from the latter it differs in being smaller, and in having the under-surface more fulvous coloured and the streaks not extending beyond the upper breast.

Top of head, neck, back, and scapulars dull vinous chestnut, streaked with dull black, the hindneck greyer and forming a collar; rump clearer vinous, only very faintly streaked; upper tail-coverts greyer than the rump and more distinctly streaked; tail dark brown, broadly margined with rufous. Lores and an eyebrow streak, broadest above the ear-coverts, dull whitish varied with pale brown; ear-coverts chestnut varied with dark brown; sides of face buffish white with cross-bands of blackish; chin and part of upper throat immaculate buffish white; crop and breast vinous buffish, streaked with dark brown, sides of both darker and more vinous; remaining under-surface of body pale buffish, the flanks darker and streaked with vinous; under tail-coverts vinous, streaked with dark brown and margined with pale buffish; under wing-coverts pale vinous. Primaries dark brown, narrowly edged externally and at the tips with very pale vinous; secondaries more broadly margined with vinous rufous, the innermost on both webs and with only a dark brown shaft streak; primary coverts dark brown edged with pale vinous; greater coverts more broadly margined, and the remaining coverts pale vinous, with only the centres dark brown and the tips paler; edge of wing varied dark brown and very pale vinous.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8444; *ex* coll. C. G. Davies, Matatiele, East Griqualand, 28.V.11. (Iris, hazel; bill, dusky, base pale grey; legs and feet, fleshy yellow.—C. G. Davies.) Wing, 105; tail, 78; tars., 30; culm., 23 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 8445; same data. Smaller than the ♂ and somewhat lighter coloured above and below. Wing, 93; tail, 68; tars., 28; culm., 19 mm.

A juvenile specimen from the same locality, T.M. No. 8446, is distinguished from the adults by its more vinous appearance above, the feathers of the nape, scapulars, and upper back with white tips; region of the crop vinous and less distinctly streaked, and remaining under-surface white, inclining to rufous on the flanks. Wing, 95; tail, 70; tars., 27; culm., 16 mm.

There are also in the Transvaal Museum collection four males and three females from the same locality, which give the following measurements :—

Wing, 108–111 ; tail, 77–82 ; tarsi., 28–31 ; culm., 21–23 mm.

Wing, 93–98 ; tail, 69–73 ; tarsi., 28 ; culm., 19 mm.

*Phyllastrephus capensis intermedius*, subspec. nov.

This subspecies is intermediate between *P. capensis capensis* and *P. c. suahelicus*, differing from the former in being paler olive brown above and whiter below, and from the latter in being darker above and on the flanks, and paler on the under tail-coverts.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 7831 ; *ex coll.* F. O. Noomé, Umbelluzi River, Portuguese S.E. Africa, 30.V.11. Wing, 88 ; tail, 91 ; tarsi., 23 ; culm., 20 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 7829 ; same locality, 28.V.11. Wing, 80 ; tail, 87 ; tarsi., 23 ; culm., 20 mm.

Also another specimen from the same locality.

*Zosterops vaalensis*, spec. nov.

This specimen was thought to be *Z. deserticola*, judging by its small size and similarity to *Z. sundevalli* ; but Prof. Dr. Reichenow, to whom it was referred, kindly compared it with the type, and expressed the opinion that it is referable to an undescribed species.

Entire upper surface from the crown to the upper tail-coverts and ear-coverts and sides of neck pale olive green washed with yellowish ; sides of forehead, lores, chin, and throat pale yellow ; under-surface of body and under tail-coverts pale yellow, paler than the throat ; sides of breast greyer and merging into a wash of tan-brown on the sides of the abdomen ; under wing-coverts white, faintly tinged with yellow ; primaries and secondaries, and tail-feathers, dark brown, externally margined with pale olive green washed with yellowish ; inner margins whitish. Bastard wing uniform dark brown ; edge of wing yellowish. Under the forepart of the eye a dark mark, extending towards and fading into the ear-coverts.

Type, ♀ T.M. No. 8403 ; *ex coll.* Austin Roberts, Venterskroon, Potchefstroom, 24.II.09. (Iris, brownish grey ; bill, dark brown, genys slate blue ; legs and feet, bluish slate. Length, 119 mm.—A. R.) Wing, 58 ; tail, 43 ; tarsi., 17 ; culm., 10 mm.

*Apatis rhodesiae*, spec. nov.

This species is closely allied to *A. murinus*, with the type of which it has been kindly compared by Prof. Reichenow, but differs in the ♂ having a dark brown streak below the eye.

Top of head, back, and sides of neck light grey brown ; back and wing-coverts dark grey ; rump yellowish ; upper tail-coverts and two central pairs of tail-feathers dark grey ; a dark brown mark extends from the anterior angle of the eye to the lower ear-coverts, below which it is faintly indicated on the sides of the neck. Cheeks, chin, and throat pure white, bordered below by a narrow black crescent, broader and terminating on the sides of the neck. Breast white, gradually assuming a yellowish hue on the abdomen ; thighs grey ; under tail and wing coverts white, the latter inclining to yellow. Primaries dark brown, edged externally with silvery grey, inner margins white for the basal two-thirds. Outermost tail-feathers dark grey at the base, for the remainder white ; penultimate pair also white for the greater part, but with more grey at the base ; antepenultimate dark grey for the greater part, the white only forming a

tip and extending along the shaft for half the length of the feather; the next pair with a very narrow shaft streak, and the two central pairs uniform dark grey.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 2443; *ex coll.* C. Wilde, Matabeleland, 5.X.05. Wing, 54; tail, 53; tars., 23; culm., 13 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 2444; same locality, 30.IX.05. Wing, 52; tail, 47; tars., 21; culm., 12.5 mm. This differs from the ♂ in lacking the dark mark below the eye and the crescent on the crop.

*Apalis spelonkensis*, spec. nov.

This species most closely resembles *A. thoracica*, but is readily distinguished by the yellow of the under-surface being brighter and extending to the lower throat, *above* the black crop-band.

Crown, forehead, and forepart of lores dark grey; nape, neck, back, scapulars, and rump olive green, upper tail-coverts and central tail-feathers dark ashy grey, the last with darker shafts. A dark brown streak extending from the hinder lores through the lower half of the ear-coverts all but joins the points of the crescent across the crop on the sides of the neck; cheeks, chin, and upper throat white; lower throat and remaining under-surface pale yellow throughout; under tail and wing coverts paler yellow, almost white; thighs grey. Primaries and secondaries dusky, outer margins of first three plain, of 4-6 or 7 silvery grey, and of the rest olive green; inner margins white towards the base. Wing-coverts like the primaries, but not so clearly washed with olive green. Outermost tail-feathers white except at the base, next white for the terminal two-thirds, antepenultimate with white tips tapering to a fine point on the shaft about the middle of the feather; remaining feathers dusky.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8407; *ex coll.* F. Vaughan-Kirby, Groot Spelonken, N. Transvaal, 24.VIII.09. (Iris, pale lemon; bill, black; legs and feet, flesh pink. Length, 130 mm.—F. V. K.) Wing, 53; tail, 54; tars., 24; culm., 13 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 8408; same locality, 9.VIII.09. Length, 129; wing, 51; tail 46; tars., 21; culm., 13 mm. This differs from the ♂ in the dark streak through the ear-coverts being dark grey instead of dark brown.

There are in addition to the types six specimens in the collection from Haenertsburg (Noomé) and Woodbush (Kirby), which give the following measurements:—

Wing, 53-56; tail, 47-56; tars., 22-23; culm., 13-14 mm.

*Apalis venustus*, spec. nov.

Very similar to *A. spelonkensis*, but the yellow of the throat is confined to a border above the black band; also, the under-surface is paler yellow and inclines to olive on the flanks, the upper tail-coverts olive green, the outer margins of the tail-feathers washed with olive green for the greater part, and the primaries not so clearly margined with silvery white, but more olive green.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8405; *ex coll.* H. H. Swinny, Port St. Johns, Pondoland, 20.X.10. (Iris, straw colour; bill, black; legs and feet, flesh colour. Length, 129 mm.—H. H. S.) Wing, 51; tail, 51; tars., 22; culm., 14 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 4229; same locality, 21.III.08. Length, 124; wing, 49.5; tail, 50; tars., 21; culm., 13 mm. This differs from the ♂ in having the crescent band only faintly indicated, but the black lores and mark below the eye are hardly less distinct than in the ♂.

Also another ♂ and ♀ from the same locality.



*Apalis darglensis*, spec. nov.

In this species the lower half of the throat is yellow as in *A. spelonkensis*, but in other respects it more closely resembles *A. venustus*; it is, however, easily distinguished from both by the under-surface being olive green, only the middle of the breast and abdomen being yellowish, mixed with white.

Type, ♀ T.M. No. 8404; *ex coll.* Austin Roberts, Dargle District, Natal, 6.IX.09. (Iris, cream colour; bill, black; legs and feet, flesh pink. Length, 125 mm.—A. R.) Wing, 52; tail, 49; tars, 22; culm., 13 mm.

*Apalis flaviventris*, spec. nov.

This species most closely resembles *A. thoracica*, but may be readily distinguished by the under-surface of body being white instead of olive coloured, and the yellowish wash forms a conspicuous patch on the abdomen; also, the wing-coverts are greyer and not so olive coloured, and the wings longer, measuring over 54 mm.

Top of head and back and sides of neck dark grey; back and rump dark grey washed with olive green, which increases towards and is most distinct on the latter; upper tail-coverts and central tail-feathers dark grey; wing-coverts greyer than the back; primaries and secondaries dark brown, outer margins silvery grey, inner margins white. A dark streak through the lores and lower ear-coverts dark brown; cheeks, chin, and throat pure white; a crescent-shaped band across the crop black; under-surface of body below the crop band white, assuming a yellowish wash towards the abdomen, which is pale yellowish; under tail and wing coverts white. Two outermost pairs of tail-feathers white, dark grey at the base; antepenultimate pair dark grey at the base and on the margins, for the remaining part white; the remaining feathers uniform dark grey.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8413; *ex coll.* Austin Roberts, Wonderboom, Pretoria, 9.IX.09. (Iris, cream colour; bill, black; legs and feet, flesh colour. Length, 132 mm.—A. R.) Wing, 59; tail, 56; tars., 23; culm., 14 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 8414; *ex coll.* F. O. Noomé, Wonderboom, Pretoria, 22.VI.11. Wing, 55; tail, 49; tars., 21; culm., 13 mm. This differs from the ♂ in having the dark streak below the eye paler.

Also four more specimens from the same locality. Wing, 55–56; tail, 54–56; tars., 21–22; culm., 13–13.5.

*Camaroptera brachyura bororensis*, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. brachyura brachyura* in having the crown greyer and the remaining upper surface brighter olive yellow; the throat is also whiter, the flanks less olive coloured, and the tarsus longer.

Type, ♂, T.M. No. 5309; *ex coll.* Kirby and Roberts, Ngamwe, Boror, P.E. Africa, 2.VIII.08. (Iris, brownish yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish flesh colour. Length, 121 mm.—K. & R.) Wing, 56; tail, 42; tars., 25; culm., 13 mm.

*Camaroptera griseoviridis nooméi*, subsp. nov.

This species is most closely allied to *C. g. sundevalli*, Sharpe (Cat., B.M.), from which it differs in having the upper surface tinged with a yellowish shade, the feathers of the rump with yellowish white tips on the sides, and the flanks more strongly washed with yellowish.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8438; *ex coll.* F. O. Noomé, Pongola River, N. Transvaal, 14.VII.10. Wing, 57; tail, 44; tars., 23; culm., 13.5 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 8437; same coll., Duiker River, Waterberg District, Transvaal, 28.VII.10. Wing, 52; tail, 39; tars., 23; culm., 14 mm.

Also another specimen from the same locality which measures : wing, 54 ; tail, 44 ; tars., (?) ; culm., 14 mm.

*Monticola pretoriae*, spec. nov.

Very similar to *M. brevipes*, with which it has been confused in the past, but has the top of the head uniform slate blue, no white eyebrow, and the dark brown margin on the outer tail-feather is more extended, measuring over 25 mm. in all specimens so far examined as against 16 mm. and under in *brevipes*.

Entire head, neck, scapulars, back, and throat slate blue, with the exception of a dark mark before the eye, and a somewhat darker shade on the back ; rump, upper tail-coverts, and under-surface of body, including the crop, and under wing and tail coverts orange rufous, inclining to whitish on the abdomen. Primaries dark brown edged to the emargination with dull white, except the first and second which are uniform ; bastard wing blackish with white tips ; secondaries and all wing-coverts dark brown, margined externally and at the tips with dull white. Tail-feathers for the greater part orange rufous, the central pair dark brown for the terminal two-thirds, the outermost broadly margined on the outer web for the terminal half and the remaining feathers narrowly edged near the tips of the outer webs with dark brown.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 8456 ; *ex* coll. Austin Roberts, Pretoria, 22.VII.09. (Iris, brown ; bill, black ; legs and feet, dusky. Length, 180 mm.—A. R.) Wing, 102 ; tail, 63 ; tars., 27 ; culm., 21 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 8457 ; same collection and locality, 19.VII.09. Length, 172 ; wing, 100 ; tail 62 ; tars., 27 ; culm., 21 mm. This differs from the ♂ in having the head, neck, scapulars, and back earth brown, tinged with rufous, in place of slate blue ; cheeks and chin white ; feathers of the throat white down the centre, on the sides earth brown with a white spot in the centre bordered by a darker mark, these white spots becoming fewer towards and disappearing on the sides of the throat and crop ; lower surface paler rufous than the rump, irregularly crossed on the breast by wavy lines of dark brown, and whitish on the abdomen.

The Transvaal Museum collection also contains three ♂♂ and one ♀ from Pretoria, and one ♂ from Woodbush.

*Cisticola pusilla*, spec. nov.

Very similar to *C. rufa* of West Africa, but readily distinguished by the longer first primary, which exceeds half the length of the second.

Upper surface pale rufous brown, the crown darker ; lores, chin, throat, and centre of abdomen white ; flanks and thighs brownish buff, remaining under-surface paler buffish ; under wing coverts silky vinous buff ; tail-feathers very broad, the central pair like the back, but having a broad dark brown subterminal smudge and pale tip ; the remaining tail-feathers with the subterminal mark more pronounced ; primaries and secondaries dusky, with rufous outer and whitish inner margins ; wing-coverts like the back.

Type of ♂ T.M. No. 4673 ; *ex* coll. Kirby and Roberts, Villa Pereira, Boror, P.E. Africa, 25.V.08. (Iris, grey ; bill, brown ; lower mandible, pale brownish pink ; legs and feet, pale pinkish yellow. Length, 109 mm.—K. & R.) Wing, 48 ; tail, 38 (?) ; tars., 21 ; culm., 11 mm.

Type of ♀ T.M. No. 5292 ; *ex* coll. P. A. Sheppard, near Beira, 1.IX.01. Wing, 42 ; tail, 38 ; tars., 21 ; culm., 11 mm.